

Zionist Leader Fears Negro Anti-Semites

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By Martin Weil

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Anti-Semitic and anti-Israel militants who have come to the fore in the Negro rights struggle will "endanger the position of the Jew in America," the president of the Zionist Organization of America said here last night.

In a speech prepared for delivery at the first session of the ZOA convention at the Statler Hilton, Jacques Torczyner suggested that in particular Jewish ghetto merchants and Jewish school teachers are becoming victims of Negro anti-Semitism.

Decentralization of New York City schools, he said, "menaces the future of thousands of Jewish teachers who are going to be expelled by decentralized boards, in which the Negro will play a leading role."

He attacked what he called Jewish apathy in the face of danger, asking: "Where are the Jewish voices that have come out to protest against the mass destruction of Jewish property in the areas of Negro rioting?"

Torczyner suggested in an interview that his 100,000-member organization, which has mainly been identified with support for Israel, may now reorient itself to combat the threat of Negro anti-Semitism in the United States.

Attacks on Jews are prompted by the belief that Jews are the weakest segment in the white population,

Torczyner asserted. The problem can be solved, he suggested, by creating honest dialogue between Jews and militants while ending what he called the present policy of appeasement.

The ZOA role, he said, would be to set a new tone in the Jewish-militant dialogue, to show that while Jews fully believe in the justice of Negro aspirations, Jews also will stand up for their own rights.

"The problem of relations with the Negroes is . . . before the Jewish community and must be tackled," Torczyner said. "Negro extremists have put the problem clearly before public opinion. They are anti-semitic and anti-Israel."

The 54-year-old Belgian-born New Yorker said the movement's struggle in which "the Jews participated in such large numbers" is over.

Black power is now the order of the day, he said, adding that the struggle for Negro rights . . . which is justified from a human point of view, will take a more and more violent turn and endanger the position of the Jew in America."

Many Jews are particularly bitter and disturbed, he said, because "there is the feeling that the Jews have helped the Negro and the Negro is turning on him, and for reasons that are unjustified."

Rather than to whine, he said, the answer is say to the world, "and we have power . . ."